Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A method of volume visualization comprising:

　　　　providing of volumetric data, the volumetric data having first voxels belonging to a reference surface, the reference surface being a surface of a body structure ~~region~~;

　　　　entering a user selected distance by means of user interface means comprising a wheel mouse, an amount of rotation of the wheel of the wheel mouse being indicative of the user selected distance, the user selected distance measured from the surface of the body structure;

　　　　determining of second voxels of the volumetric data spaced ~~having~~ the user selected distance from the reference surface, the second voxels belonging to the body structure; and

　　　　visualizing of the second voxels.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising performing a segmentation of the volumetric data to identify the first voxels.

3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the distance of each one of the second voxels from the reference surface being determined along a direction of projection.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the distance of each one of the second voxels from the reference surface being determined by a minimum distance measure.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the distance measure being an Euclidean distance.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, whereby the volumetric data is medical image data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the volumetric data being three dimensional microscopy data.

2

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product for volume visualization, comprising program means for performing the steps of: providing of volumetric data, the volumetric data having first voxels belonging to a reference surface, the reference surface being a surface of a body structure ~~region~~;

entering a user selected distance by means of user interface means comprising a wheel mouse, an amount of rotation of the wheel of the wheel mouse being indicative of the user selected distance, the user selected distance measured from the surface of the body structure;

determining of second voxels of the volumetric data spaced ~~having~~ the user selected distance from the reference surface, the second voxels belonging to the body structure; and

visualizing of the second voxels.

9. (Original) The computer program product of claim 8, the program means being adapted to perform a segmentation of the volumetric data to identify the first voxels.

10. (Currently amended) A computer system for volume visualization, comprising:

means for storing of volumetric data, the volumetric data having first voxels belonging to a reference surface, the reference surface being a surface of a body structure ~~region~~;

user interface means for entering of a user selected distance, the user interface means comprising a wheel mouse, the amount of rotation of the wheel of the wheel mouse being indicative of the user selected distance, the user selected distance measured from the surface of the body structure;

means for determining of second voxels of the volumetric data spaced ~~having~~ the user selected distance from the reference surface, the second voxels belonging to the body structure; and

means for visualizing of the second voxels.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, further comprising means for segmentation of the volumetric data to identify the first voxels.

12. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, further comprising means for volume rendering of the second voxels.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the body structure ~~region~~ is an organ or other pathological structure.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the volumetric data is medical image data.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the body structure ~~region~~ is an organ or other pathological structure.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the volumetric data is medical image data.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the body structure ~~region~~ is an organ or other pathological structure.